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ABSTRACT

This report examines the efforts of several visionary partnerships that have pioneered in bringing Head Start and child care services together for the children in their programs. While the partnerships vary in scope and design, all of the initiatives discussed in this report provide comprehensive services to children and families, including: full-day care and education; social services; health services components; parent involvement; and commitment to quality. The first section of the report provides information about the key issues addressed by programs developing partnerships. Chapter 1 highlights the benefits of partnerships. Chapter 2 looks at the process of partners coming together, including finding a partner, planning for coordination, and developing partnership agreements or contracts. Chapter 3 discusses financing options for partnership initiatives and examines how partners juggle multiple funding streams, share resources, and develop appropriate fiscal accounting systems. The second section examines the process of delivering the comprehensive services package, and provides a glimpse of how programs have dealt with particular issues surrounding each component. Chapter 4 outlines the process of providing education, health, and social services components. Chapter 5 examines the issue of parent involvement as a critical part of any initiative. Chapter 6 explores the issue of ensuring good quality throughout the program. Three appendixes contain: profiles and contact information for the highlighted programs; sample documents; and state medical eligibility levels. (TJQ)

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